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# The Kollel Welcomes Two New Members with Chicago Roots

## RABBI SHIMON LANGER

**B**eginning Rosh Chodesh Elul, Rabbi Shimon Langer joined the Kollel as a full time Chaver HaKollel. He has very close ties to Chicago as the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Leon, well known lay leaders in the city.

Rabbi Langer comes from the Five Towns area of New York. While he was single, he learned in Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood. After he married his wife Elana, they moved to Eretz Yisroel where he learned in the Mir Yeshiva under Rav Asher Arieli and other Rebbeim.

Since joining the Kollel, he has proved himself to be a strong asset in the Bais Medrash. Although Rabbi Langer joined the Kollel in the middle of Eruvin, as a Baal Kishron he was able to catch up quickly and participate in the discussions involving complex sugyos. Reb Shimon has an outgoing, affable personality which has endeared him to his fellow Chavrei HaKollel and to many community members. His presence and warmth permeates the Bais Medrash.

His wife Elana is a resource teacher in Arie Crown Hebrew Day School and they have four children.



## RABBI ELCHONON NEUMAN

**R**abbi Elchonon Neuman joined the Kollel after Succos. He also has very strong ties to Chicago as the son of Rabbi and Mrs. Binyomin Neuman, Maggid Shur at Telshe Yeshiva and Rav of Adas Bnei Israel.

Reb Elchonon, as a native Chicagoan, attended local institutions, Yeshiva Tiferes Tzvi and then Telshe Yeshiva, learning under HaRav Avrohom Chaim Levin zt"l and yb"l Rav Shmuel Yehuda Levin. He spent two years in Eretz Yisroel at Yeshivas Brisk, learning under Rav Moshele Soloveitchik, followed by six years at Beth Medrash Govoha in Lakewood.

Rabbi Neuman learns at the Kollel by day (First and Second Seder). He spends the balance of his time at the Adas as Rosh Chaburah of the newly established Early Morning Kollel and Evening Kollel.

As a metsuyan in learning and a true masmid, Rabbi Neuman has shown himself to be a koach in the Bais Medrash as well as a strong influence in the Peterson Park community. He is married to Brocha Raizy and they have two children.





# Daytime Learning *at the Kollel*

**T**he full time Chavrei HaKollel are the heart and engine of the Kollel. Everything in the Kollel emanates from this source of energy. Over the past year, the Chavrei HaKollel have been delving into the complex sugyos (topics) of Mesechta Eruvin. In the morning, they learned the first perek and in the afternoon the second and ninth perek. This completes the first section of the mesechta, dealing with Mechitzos (partitions) Reshus Harabim (public thoroughfare) Karpef (areas not amenable to domestic use) and Tsuros HaPesach (the form of a doorway) and much more.

The Kollel is now starting the second section of the mesechta which deals with techumim (traveling outside city limits on Shabbos). The Kollel is scheduled to learn the fourth and fifth perek during the morning and afternoon sedorim.

The Chavrei HaKollel are learning with great hasmada (diligence) and amelus (strenuous effort). Their level of learning is extremely high, reflecting the sophisticated caliber of the Chavrei HaKollel.

This year has presented many challenges, with the Kollel closing for a period of time. When learning in person was not an option, remote learning by phone became an alternative solution. Rosh Kollel HaRav Rabbi Zucker and Rosh Chaburah, Rabbi Yehoshua Goldstein were always available to answer any question or resolve any difficulty. The learning always continued despite the difficulties.

The trying times taught everyone to value the privilege of being able to enter a Bais Medrash in person for learning and tefillah.





# The Influen

**Rabbi Moshe Kaufman**, an alumnus of the Kollel has recently taken a new position as Rav of a new minyan in Peterson Park called Bais Hakanesses D'Chicago. This minyan was started by a group of Bnei Torah. They subsequently approached Rabbi Kaufman to become Rav of the shul. Recently, the Midwest Bais Horaah sponsored a four-week series of Shovavim shiurim at the shul given by Rabbi Kaufman and other prominent guest speakers.

Reb Moshe has expanded his activities at the Midwest Bais Horaah of Agudath Israel, spending more time answering shailos on the phone, via emails and writing more halachic articles. Rabbi Kaufman also gives regular halacha shiurim at Telshe Yeshiva.

In addition, Rabbi Kaufman spends second seder at the Kollel, learning with his chavrusa, Rabbi Chaim Aginstein, Assistant Rav of Heritage. He also learns night seder and early mornings at the Kollel with members of the community.

Recently, Reb Moshe gave a hesped at the Kollel for HaGaon Rav Dovid Feinstein zt"l. As a member of the family, Rabbi Kaufman was able to relate many personal anecdotes which gave us a glimpse of the unbelievable humility and chesed of this unique Gadol b'Torah, who had a complete mastery of Shas and Poskim.



Kollel alumnus, **Rabbi Yisroel Langer** has also expanded his already broad range of activities. Rabbi Langer, who is serving as Rabbinical Coordinator for the Chicago Rabbinical Council in the area of Toelim/Insect Infestation, was offered the prestigious position of Dayan on the CRC's Bais Din. He fills the position vacated by Rabbi Ephraim Friedman, another alumnus of the Kollel, who relocated to Miami Beach, Florida. As Dayan, Rabbi Langer adjudicates issues involving gittin, geirus and Choshen Mishpat Dinei Torah. In addition, he does research on many other halachic shailos.

Reb Yisroel still retains his previous position as a Morah Horaah in the Midwest Bais Horaah. He is the first person to ever occupy these two positions simultaneously and is a symbol of Achdus in our community.

Rabbi Langer also continues as Rav of Congregation Bais Yitzchok and a teacher at Bais Yaakov High School of Chicago. Reb Yisroel learns in the Kollel during Kollel Boker; second seder he is the Rosh Chaburah of the Afternoon Mechanchim Chaburah, and he also learns at the Kollel in the evenings.



This past Elul, Kollel alumnus, **Rabbi Shloimie Neuberger**, established a new Mechina High School, Mechas Ner Naftali. Rabbi Neuberger responded to the request of a group of parents who wanted a yeshiva that will serve a specific niche, striving for excellence in Limudei Kodesh and Limudei Chol. It is modeled after the teachings and hashkafa of Yeshivas Ner Yisroel. There are currently 16 bochurim enrolled in the yeshiva, eight graduates of Arie Crown Hebrew Day School and eight from Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi.

Rabbi Shloimie Neuberger, during the years he spent as a full time Kollel member, was a powerful force in the Bais Medrash and his dynamic personality resonated with the many community members with whom he learned.

The Kollel is very proud of the tremendous progress he has made in such a short period of time. With his great determination and the siyata d'shmaya he has enjoyed, he will be very successful in this new endeavor.





# Presence of Kollel Alumni on the Chicago Community

Kollel Alumni  
Rabbi Shlomo Francis and  
Rabbi Yonasan Glenner's

## "Eruv Network"

Expands Its Scope

On Sunday, November 22, thousands of participants joined in a virtual event to celebrate the Daf Yomi Siyum of Mesechta Eruvin. The event was sponsored by the Agudath Israel of America and Illinois in conjunction with the Eruv Network, an organization headed by Kollel alumni, Rabbi Shlomo Francis and Rabbi Yonasan Glenner that provides halachic and technical guidance to eruvim across the country.

Rabbi Francis and Rabbi Glenner gave a presentation entitled, "The City Eruv: A Behind the Scenes Report". This presentation covered all the facets of the city eruv and incorporated striking illustrations and compelling footage of community eruvim across America.

Reb Shlomo and Reb Yonasan have the tremendous zechus of having upgraded dozens of community eruvim around the country and have raised consciousness about the need to subject eruvim to constant expert halachic scrutiny.

The OU also contacted Rabbi Francis and Rabbi Glenner to share their series of multi-media shiurim from the Eruv Network with the All Daf app, which has been downloaded by 40,000 people. These extremely popular shiurim helped thousands of Daf Yomi learners gain a clarity in the concepts of Mesechta Eruvin and their application to contemporary eruvim.



## KOLLEL ALUMNI IN PRINT



# The Zichron Aharon Mechanchim Division Adds a New Member

**R**abbi Eli Dov Siegal recently moved to Chicago to become a 6<sup>th</sup> grade rebbe in Yeshiva Ohr Boruch. He is the son of Rabbi and Mrs. Avrohom Menashe Siegal. He has joined the Zichron Aharon Mechanchim Division and learns in the Kollel during the evenings.

The Zichron Aharon Mechanchim Division was established in 2001 upon the initiative of Mr. David and Dr. Michael Friedman in memory of their father, Reb Aharon Friedman. This chabura learns nightly in the Kollel under the direction of Rosh Chabura, Rabbi Mordechai Eisenbach. Since that time, new chaburos have formed at the Kollel, such as the Zichron Shlomo Afternoon Kollel, under Rosh Chabura, Rabbi Yisroel Langer. There are also many mechanchim learning in Kollel Boker in several different chaburos under Rosh Chabura, Rabbi Yehoshua Goldstein and Rabbi Dovid Rifkind. In addition, the After Shacharis Chabura meets at the Kollel and is headed by Rabbi Binyomin Chajes.

The Kollel has been the recipient of a generous donation from Dr. and Mrs. Yosef Walder to fund a significant number of additional mechanchim and rabbonim who now study in the Kollel. We gratefully acknowledge their support and their longstanding relationship with the Kollel over the past 21 years.

Friedman and Walder families  
play an important role in the  
Mechanchim and Rabbonim  
Divisions of the Kollel





## Remote Shiurim from the Kollel

**T**he Kollel began giving a number of shiurim over Zoom During the height of the Covid 19 Pandemic. There are three weekly shiurim given by HaRav Dovid Zucker and three given by Rosh Kollel, HaRav Moshe Francis. These shiurim continue until today and many new people have joined. In addition to participants from Chicago, there are those who tune in from Eretz Yisroel, Miami Beach and other locations.

Over the summer, Chaver HaKollel, Rabbi Yoel Steinmetz gave a very popular shiur entitled, “Be Prepared for Your Shabbos Table” with Divrei Torah from the Parsha and Divrei Bitachon which attracted a very large audience. Rabbi Steinmetz was also asked by Torah Anytime and Chazaq to deliver shiurim on their behalf which are viewed by thousands of people.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, there was a world-wide Tehillim and Chizuk Event sponsored by Chazaq, Torah Anytime, the Kollel and other Chicago institutions which featured Rosh Kollel HaRav Dovid Zucker as one of the speakers and Rabbi Yoel Steinmetz as moderator as well as other prominent Chicago speakers.

Rabbi Moshe Revah, Kollel alumnus and Rosh Yeshiva at Bais Hamidrash L'Torah also continues to give his popular Daf Yomi shiur via conference call and Zoom.



## Friday Nights at the Kollel

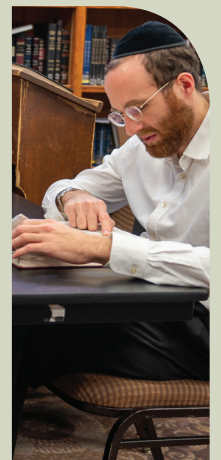
**A**t the Kollel, Friday night davening is a time for short, impactful Divrei Torah.

After Kabbalas Shabbos, there is a short break of about seven minutes until Maariv begins. During this time, at the back of the Bais Medrash, Rabbi Bezalel Pam, Rabbi Moshe Michael Halberstadt or others share Divrei Torah with the mispallelim. It is amazing how much Torah they can share within that short time period.

After Maariv, a new shiur has recently begun,

given by Rosh Kollel, HaRav Dovid Zucker. HaRav Zucker gives a short Dvar Halacha on Hilchos Shabbos and answers questions related to his topic.

Before Mincha on Erev Shabbos, a branch of the Likras Shabbos program meets at the Kollel. A nice sized group of boys come to the Kollel and listen to a 25-minute shiur given by Rabbi Moshe Ullman. This is followed by lessons in Middos Tovos through stories of Gedolim. Fresh, hot potato kugel is provided and there are raffles for extra nosh.



# The Impact of the Kollel's Next Generation



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Articles in the Kollel newsletter often focus on the accomplishments of Kollel alumni, but it is not only Kollel alumni who are contributing to Chicago but also their children - the second generation.

Most recently, Rabbi Yossi Oppenheimer, son of Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid Oppenheimer moved with his family to Chicago to take a position as maggid Shiur of the first year Bais Medrash of Yeshivas Meor HaTorah.

After learning for five years at Kollel of Flatbush, Reb Yossi now devotes himself completely to teaching the talmidim in his shiur. As a distinguished talmid chocham with a captivating personality and very pleasant manner, Rabbi Oppenheimer is raising the level of his talmidim to new heights.

Rabbi Sholom Francis, another member of the second generation and son of HaRav and Mrs. Moshe Francis, heads the Northern Lights Kollel in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Reb Sholom and Mrs. Francis have connected with Jews of all ages and backgrounds in Buffalo Grove, Deerfield and Northbrook. Their weekly publication, "Enlightened" enjoys immense popularity. Their house (before Covid) was open every Shabbos to host large numbers of guests.

Rabbi Shmuel Cohen, son of Kollel alumni, Rabbi and Mrs. Zev Cohen, has been the Menahel and Executive Director of the Choshen Mishpat Kollel, located at Congregation Adas Yeshurun, for eight years.

Reb Shmuel learns at the Choshen Mishpat Kollel, gives shiurim to community members and bochurim and is also in charge of the Kollel's business consulting service, mediation and Dinei Torah services. In addition, he organizes all events and community shiurim. His efforts have made the Choshen Mishpat Kollel very successful in their groundbreaking activities.



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